

BENT RIM BUGLE



Vol. 10 No. 3 - 1996

Info Published on behalf of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association

MMBA'S A WINNER ANYWAY YOU LOOK AT IT



ANNUAL MEETING 1997

Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Sunday February 2 - Springfield Oaks

(Davisburg Michigan - See Map Inside)

The Blizzard Blaster Fun Ride

9:00 am Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

More Info Inside or Call: 616-785-0120



WHAT THE MMBA NEEDS TO SERVE YOU BETTER:

1. Each chapter needs a member to print and mail a postcard once a month to local members, listing Chapter-related MMBA activities.
2. The MMBA needs people to attend MMBA Points Series Races to sign up members, take questions and forward them to appropriate MMBA officers, and to talk about what the MMBA does and has done.
3. In the summer, not a month, and in some cases, not a week goes by where there is not an MMBA trail maintenance activity going on somewhere in our state. Call and get involved. Your riding depends on it! Call your local Chapter President, or see her/him at our Annual Meeting on February 2, at Springfield Oaks - call 616-785-0120.

for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (i.e. freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, doo-rag, etc.) are

PUT YOUR HEAD IN HERE!

MMBA
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

**YOUR OFFICIAL MICHIGAN
MOUNTAIN BIKING
ASSOCIATION
T-SHIRT IS WAITING!**

COLOR: Unbleached cotton fabric shirt imprinted with a medium forest green ink

SIZES: L and XL super heavyweight

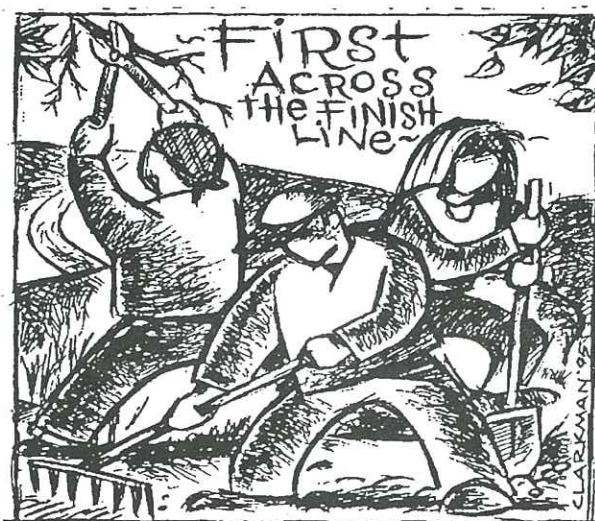
A donation to the MMBA of \$17.00 takes care of the shipping and handling!

**Send check made out to the MMBA to:
MMBA T-Shirt
P.O. Box 29
Belmont MI 49306**

The MMBA t-shirt can be found in selected bike shops around the state. For info on getting shirts for your shop call:
616-785-0120

If your shop would like to have the cool MMBA shirt on hand for your customers just call: **616.785.0120 NOW!**

Please, in the interest of safety, always make sure your head is securely fastened on before inserting it into anything. Not responsible for use as a birth-control device. Read all instructions before use.



It's coming out soon, our new MMBA brochure. It will be packed with info on the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, the accomplishments of our members and chapters, the MMBA Championship Points, and of course the who, what, when and where of the MMBA. If you would like a few copies to hand out or supply to your favorite bike shop just contact the MMBA at 616-785-0120/phone-fax or e-mail Go_MMBA@aol.com. Web site: <http://www.mmba.org>

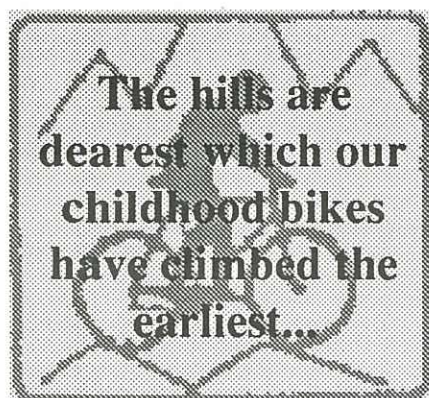
Cover Art: this issue is by Bud Pell, Southeast Chapter Member. Bud, has given a lot of time and effort to many areas of MMBA activities. Bud is active in the maintenance and development of trails such as Mayberry, Stoney Creek, Ionia and many other Southeaster Chapter activities. Thanks Bud! For more info on the Southeast Chapter call: 616-785-0120.

"Hey! Something Looks Different!"

Actually, a similar statement was made by one of the original inhabitants of Bikini Island, upon his return to his homeland after a series of nuclear tests were carried out by some "enlightened" bureaucrats in the 50's. Fortunately, what you may have noticed about this issue of the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is not quite so atomic. In a nutshell, through the help of some talented MMBA members, the BRB is now updated to a new level of artistic standards.

Moving well along into its tenth volume the BRB needed some attention and tweaking of a few details. With the help of Dan Clark, an artist who is no stranger to mountain biking publications, the BRB has a cool new look. Dan's illustration/art credits can be found in The Dirt Rag - see their latest cover, Michigan Cyclist Magazine, MMBA annual t-shirt designs, a wide variety of corporate work and of course many, many covers of the Bent Rim Bugle.

Hope you like the new designs, there are a number of them throughout this issue of the BRB. And of course, the BRB is driven by those who read it, and if you have some special talent for art or writing and would like to make this "zine" (a trendy neologism being used for the word - magazine...yikes even us!) just get it to us here at the corporate office for the BRB at P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306. (Hey don't laugh, it's a really BIG POST OFFICE BOX...)



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Dwain Abramowski

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Christina- Thank You

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Land Manager Column

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Special thanks to

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On The Cover: Art by Bud Pell

Music Provided By

Tim Chesla/Last Call Band/Robert Cray

Material Provided By

"Our Mother Earth"

Use them wisely and recycle.

This magazine is printed on recycled paper.

"The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well..." Joe Ancis



MMBA MISSION STATEMENT

To promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

MMBA

MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

Chapter Chatter

Southeast:

By Bud Pell

On Sunday, November 17, members of the Southeast Chapter and the Friends of Maybury State Park held a cooperative trash-out at Maybury State Park.

The site of Maybury State Park was once a Hospital complex where people with tuberculosis were confined for treatment. Much trash was left behind when the hospital was abandoned.

The above mentioned groups combined their efforts to remove some of this trash in the area of the mountain bike trail. One complete

dumpster was filled and additional trash was piled near the trail for removal later that week.

The trash-out was cut short by 2 hours because of rain. Needless to say, after the work, the ride was cancelled. The trash out team totaled 18 persons. Thanks to all for showing up and working hard.

Potawatomi -

Real Life stories.....

By Jason Jones

This October, a group of "locals" were doing their usual Sunday morning ride at the University of Michigan Stinchfield Woods. This area,

sometimes known to locals as Peach Mountain. The area houses the U of M Radio Astronomy Observatory and also happens to contain a few miles of pristine glacial forested single-track and jeep trails. The caretakers' policy has always been cordial, allowing both hikers and mountain bikers to use this nice patch of University property.... until now. Seems that the group of locals riding that Sunday morning this October contained one jerk. You see, on the trail that morning were a couple of hikers who happened to belong to the University's "Friends of Stinchfield Woods" organization, the governing body for access/use issues at the Woods. Unfortunately, they had a run in with our jerk who just happened to also be a mountain biker. Apparently, the jerk blew by the couple rather abruptly. No matter that the IMBA Rules of the Trail can now be found in a billion languages on everything from sport food wrap-

BENT RIM BUGLE PUBLISHING INFO

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is published 4 times a year (quarterly) Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The BRB is the source for news and information for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition, fun and other activities and information related to the mountain biking.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: **MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306**. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufactures. **For deadlines and rates contact the address above or call, (616) 785-0120 or AOL E-Mail: Go MMBA@aol.com. (Net: Go MMBA@aol.com) MMBA Web site: <http://www.mmba.org>.**

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, and/or MMBA members, Dealers, or Sponsors. In other words, lighten-up it's mountain biking not world hunger... Copyright, Dec.1996, all rights reserved. reserved..blah, blah...

MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails.
5. Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.

pers to the Internet, I guess this jerk either lives on a remote island, or, just chose to ignore the Rules. At any rate, he was also a hothead along with being inconsiderate, so, he had "words" with the couple. Unfortunately, at the next Friends of Stinchfield Meeting, there were no mountain bikers present. So, naturally, when the couple brought up the fact that all mountain bikes should be banned from the area, the motion was passed faster than a developer can clear cut a patch of land and build a strip mall. Some of us "good" locals are now going to send in our \$20 bucks so that we, too, can become Friends of Stinchfield, and, hopefully, make Stinchfield friendly again to mountain bikes.

I'm sad to say, this true story epitomizes the whole access situation for mountain bikers today. It takes a bunch of our voices united into an organized effort just to MAINTAIN our right to use trail, but, it only takes one of us in a solo act of misguided stupidity to DESTROY it for all of us.

Editor's note: How important is it to show up? See page 16.

Correction: In the last issue of the BRB, in credit given to a writer/article, the publisher Booth Newspapers was spelled incorrectly. We apologize for the error.

The lighter side: the publisher and staff of the BRB has a policy to make errors in every issue of the BRB so as not to upset the physical law of the universe that states nothing in this world is perfect - except imperfection, which makes all things perfectly imperfect....can I go to lunch now? Or maybe I'm already out to lunch....

Mountain Bike Hall of Fame and Museum Crested Butte, Colorado

Nomination Information-An individual or organization may be nominated by anyone nationally or internationally. The nominee should have made significant contributions to the enrichment of the sport in one or more of the following categories: founding parents, journalism, industry, competition or promotion. Nomination must be received by April 1 of the election year. Please include membership nomination information, address and phone number of nominee. Anyone can nominate someone for the Mountain Bike hall of Fame and Museum; however, only members can vote.

The Mountain Bike Hall of Fame and Museum hosts hundreds of items of memorabilia including several vintage bikes, classic photos and interesting artifacts. Over 400 individuals have enjoyed privileges of membership in the Hall of Fame. Always on the lookout for additions to the collection in the museum, contributions to the enhancement of bikes, and an occasional blast from the past, the Hall of Fame is becoming ever more widely known, through a traveling display and increased national publicity.

For membership information and/or nominations contact:
Mountain Bike Hall of Fame and Museum
P.O. Box 845, Crested Butte, Colorado 81224 / 303-349-7382
-\$10.00 Membership includes decal and Newsletter
-Other levels of membership are available, just call.
Established as a non-profit corporation in 1988.

Greenway Trail Adds to Home Values

State Trails Committee member and Realtor Lee Milner sent a copy of an appraisal for a home in Colorado Springs that clearly shows a value for greenways. The home in Briargate area is described as having a "backyard backing to greenway." In comparing the \$119,000 house to three very similar ones without proximity to the trail, \$2,500 of the home's value is attributed to its being adjacent to the greenway. It is encouraging to see this kind of quantifiable evidence that greenways do enhance our communities. Colorado State Trails News - October 1996 - pg. 9



Shimano Action Heroes Help IMBA
Preserve Trail access
 Auction of 14 Mountain Bike Racer
 Dolls Benefits Trail Advocacy-

Fourteen custom Shimano Action Hero mountain bike racer dolls will be auctioned this winter to raise money for trails advocacy and the work of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). Mountain bike racing teams, racers, fans, collectors, and IMBA supporters are invited to post written bids to purchase one or more of these unique resin dolls. All proceeds from this auction, which

International Dirt

closes March 15, 1997 will be used to establish the IMBA-Shimano Action heroes Fund, which will recognized and support IMBA-affiliated clubs who are going above and beyond the call of duty to preserve and improve trail access for cyclists.

Each 22-inch-tall Shimano Action Hero was designed and built of solid modeling resin by Propworks, a Seattle-based company that specializes in movie props. The cost of creating each figure was \$3,000. The dolls, which were featured in a recent Shimano national ad campaign, were designed to highlight the personality quirks, significant life events, appearance and mannerisms of top international mountain bike racers such

as Juli Furtato, Thomas Frischknecht, Ruthie Matthes, Paola Pezzo, Sara Ballantyne and Don Myrah. Eight other Action Hero Figures were created featuring Toby Henderson, Tim Gould, Dave Cullinan, Beat Wabel, Kirt Voreis, Marla Streib, Leigh Donovan, and Pete Loncarevich.

Typical of the breed is the "Toby Hollywood Henderson with Head Swelling Action" doll, which was inspired by downhill and dual slalom specialist Henderson's reputation as a man with abundant confidence. Olympic champion Pezzo, who shaped a strong fashion statement as she pedaled to victory in Atlanta, is immortalized as a Marilyn Monroe-esque "Paola Paparzzi Pezzo."

Shimano's donation of these Action Hero dolls is one part of its multi-faceted support for National Mountain Bike Advocacy Summit that was held in 1996 in Arizona.

The Action Hero auction is open to everyone. Bids should be sent, faxed, or e-mailed to IMBA, P.O. Box 7578, Boulder, CO 80306 / phone: 303-545-9011; fax: 303-545-9026, e-mail: imba@aol.com. No bids will be accepted after 2 p.m. Mountain Standard Time March 15, 1997. IMBA will track bids and notify the winners.

IMBA and Shimano hope this auction inspires the mountain bike community to show its support for IMBA and trails advocacy. The goal is to create an auction that reward the highest bidders and the volunteers who are making sure that mountain bikers everywhere have plenty of places to enjoy the sport.

IMBA, a non-profit international advocacy organization, works to keep trails open and in top condition for everyone. For more information contact IMBA at the address/phone number or e-mail address listed above.

IMBA Membership Application Form

A nonprofit, volunteer group, IMBA's mission is to promote environmentally and socially responsible mountain bicycling. We publish IMBA Trail News to keep members informed of current issues and events. Donations are tax deductible.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PRICES:

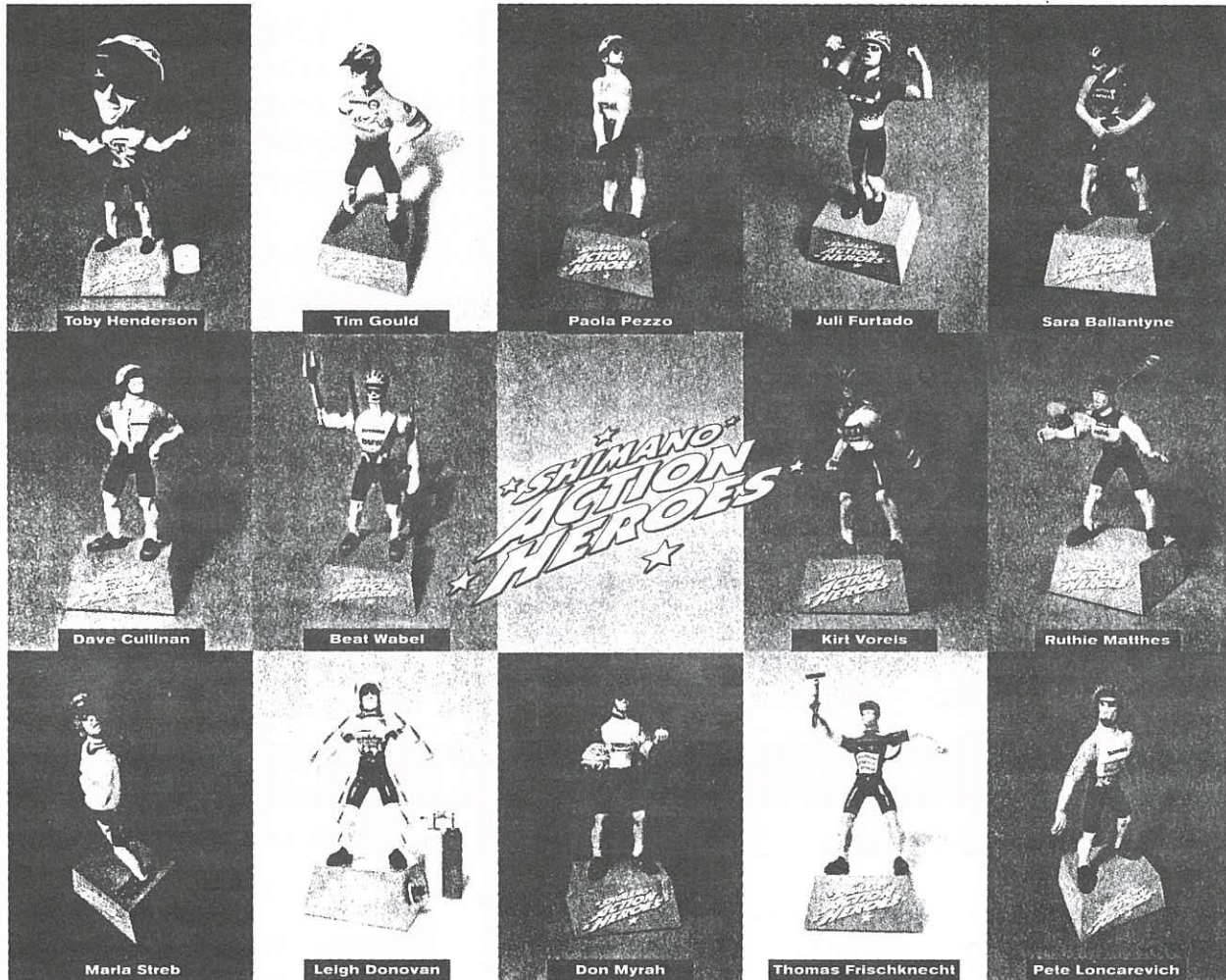
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Land Manager	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of an IMBA Affiliated Club.....	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership (including T-shirt)...	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Club.....	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Dealer	\$60 or 120
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	contact IMBA
<input type="checkbox"/> additional donation for IMBA's programs \$	_____

Canada/Mexico add \$5 for mailing. Outside North America add \$10 for mailing. Mail to: IMBA National Office:
 P.O. box 7578
 Boulder, Co 80306-7578
 Phone: 303-545-9011 fax: 303-545-9026 E-mail : imba@aol.com

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone: Home _____

IMBA Helps Your Local Club*

Action Heroes Auction To Help IMBA Keep Your Trails Open.



1.) Duck into a nearby phone booth. (Or hop behind a P.C.)
2.) Use your almighty Credit-Card Maxing Action™ (or we'll gladly accept cash) to place a bid on the Shimano® Action Hero (or Heroes) of your choice. Yes, the same one-of-a-kind superstars that were actually used in the



ads can now be yours, all yours. *Heb, heb, heb...*

3.) In the end, the one wielding the greatest purchase power gets to ride off into the sunset with his supergirl (or guy), secure in the knowledge that the trails are safe for yet another day.

All proceeds benefit the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

All bids must be received no later than March 15, 1997. IMBA, P.O. Box 7578, Boulder, CO 80306. Phone: 303-545-9011. Fax: 303-545-9026. E-mail: imba@aol.com. Each Shimano Action Hero is a one-of-a-kind work of art based on one-of-a-kind MTB racing personalities. The figures, with base, stand 22" tall and are made of solid modeling resin. There are 14 in all. Each is handmade, rendered in painstaking detail by Propwerks, a Seattle-based motion picture props company, and costs approximately \$3,000 to create.

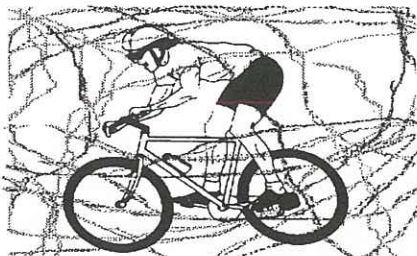
*The Action Heroes Auction is expected to help the MMBA directly, find out how in the next issue of the Bent Rim Bugle!

Denny's

CYCLING AND FITNESS

East Grand River, East Lansing
351-2000

West Saginaw, Lansing
321-6700



Central Park BICYCLES

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Stumpjumper 95-96 899 now 699

Stumpjumper M-2 96 999 now 799

Stumpjumper FS 95 1179 now 899

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Stumpjumper M2 FS 92 1499 now 1199

Stumpjumper M2 FS Comp. 95 1729 now 1299

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TREK 8000SNX 1029 now 929

TREK 9700 SHX 1599 now 1499

TREK Y11 1599 now 1499

TREK Y22 2299 now 1999

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Y33 Demo 95 3399 now 2599

Demo 96 3199 now 2799

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ProFlex 756 1499 now 1299

ProFlex 855 95 1699 now 1299

ProFlex Animal 95 2099 now 1399

ProFlex 856 1899 now 1699

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1000 Demo 1999 now 1499

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Litespeed OBED

20.5 95 1999 now 1399

Litespeed

OBED 18.5 2749 now 1799

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Okemos 517 - 349-8880

East Lansing 517-351-2000

Lansing 517-321-6700

Quantities limited-prices
subject to change

MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

CHOOSE YOUR CHAPTER AFFILIATION:

☐ Holly/Flint
☐ Mid-Michigan
☐ Northeast

☐ Northwest & U.P.
☐ Pontiac Lake
☐ Potawatomi

☐ Southeast
☐ Southwest
☐ Western

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association is a charitable non-profit organization tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS.

WE HONOR



The MMBA takes Visa and Master Card

Name/Print: _____

Name/Sign: _____

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES BIKE SHOPS, ETC.

Individual	\$22.00	Regular	\$110.00
Family	\$27.50	Patron	\$250.00
Patron	\$50.00	Benefactor	\$500.00+
Benefactor	\$100.00+		

Make checks payable to:
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION
2528 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Waterford, MI 48328-3312

MMBA POINT SERIES ENTRY-FOR RACERS ONLY Add \$5.00 per rider!

Name _____

Date of birth _____

M/F _____

Class* _____

*Beginner, Sport, Expert, or Elite

Office Use Only

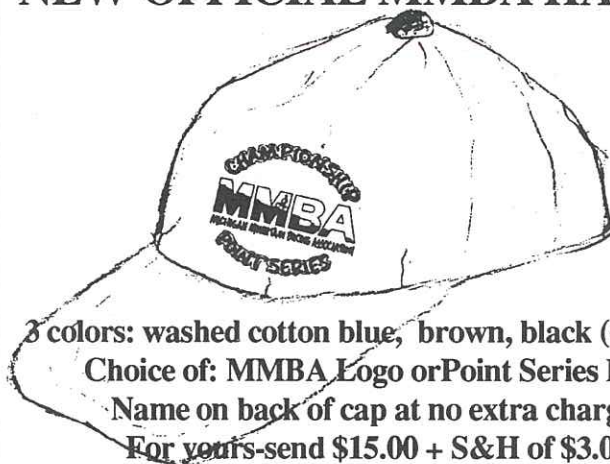


**Tentative
1997 MMBA Championship
Points Series Schedule**

The final calendar, with phone numbers/flyers and other info will be available at the 1997 MMBA Annual Meeting Held in Davisburg. See announcement on page 13 of this publication.

4-06-97	<u>Whiskey Creek</u>
4-20-97	Yankee Springs
4-27-97	Ithaca
5-04-97	Fort Custer Stampede
5-11-97	Boyne
5-18-97	Addison Oaks
5-25-97	Pando
6-15-97	Keweenaw Chain Drive
7-13-97	Pando
7-27-97	Pontiac Lake
8-10-97	<u>Ruby</u> - Port Huron
8-31-97	<u>Garland</u>
9-14-97	Cool
9-21-97	Addison Oaks
10-05-97	Schuss
10-19-97	Cannonsburg

NEW OFFICIAL MMBA HAT!



3 colors: washed cotton blue, brown, black (charcoal)
Choice of: MMBA Logo or Point Series Logo
Name on back of cap at no extra charge!
For yours-send \$15.00 + S&H of \$3.00

check or money order to:

MMBA HAT

Savage Marketing

2819 Charlesgate Ave. SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49509

616-531-2031

Congratulations 1996 MMBA Championship Points Series Racers!

Awards will be given out
and a complete
final-results list of the 1996 Cham-
pionship Points Series will be
available at the 1997 Michigan
Mountain Biking Association
Annual Meeting. See info on page
13 for time(s) and date.

THE worst thing you can do is be on your bike all year. My program is snow-shoeing, backpacking, and cross-country skiing, with a backpack for added weight. Winter training is not just improving endurance or getting bigger muscles. The goal is to get your overall conditioning to the point where there isn't any way you're going to be injured when you start on the bike - Mike Neel
Bicycling Magazine

See you Sunday, February 2 for the 1997 MMBA Annual meeting at Springfield Oaks, in Davisburg MI. Join us for a day of fun and prizes! Blizzard Blast at 9:00am Pontiac Lake/Awards 2:00pm at Springfield Oaks.

MMBA SHOP AND MANUFACTURER MEMBERS

IS YOUR SHOP HERE? THE SHOPS LISTED HERE CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU RIDE. DOES YOUR SHOP?



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Member Bike Shops

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MIDLAND, MI

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THE BICYCLE SHOP
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BILLY'S BIKE SHOP
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D&D BICYCLES
WESTLAND, MI

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DAN'S BICYCLE & LOCK SHOP **
IONIA, MI

(616)527-0471

DENNY'S CYCLING & FITNESS **
LANSING, MI

(517)321-6700

DENNY'S CYCLING & FITNESS **
EAST LANSING, MI

(517)351-2000

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COMSTOCK PARK, MI
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FRASER SCHWINN CYCLING & FIT, INC - FRASER, MI

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GRAND BLANC CYCLE
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GREAT LAKES CYC & FIT ADVENTURE - ANN ARBOR, MI

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HIGHWHEELER BIKE SHOP
HOLLAND, MI

(616)396-6084

HIGHWHEELER BIKE SHOP
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

(616)365-BIKE

HOUSE OF WHEELS
OWOSSO, MI

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KENTWOOD SCHWINN CYCLING & FIT - KENTWOOD, MI

(616)942-1880

LIVONIA SCHWINN BICYCLE & FITNESS - LIVONIA, MI

(810)476-1818

MOUNTAIN MAN SKI SHOP **
TOLEDO, OH

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NORTH KENT SCHWINN CYCLING & FIT ** - GRAND RAPIDS, MI

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(517)789-6077

PEDAL & TOUR CYCLING AND FITNESS - JACKSON, MI

(517)789-6362

QUIET WORLD RECREATION
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Please Note: In our continuing Dealer Membership Drive we have received some new dealer support and they will be noted in the next BRB. ** denotes special contributions and/or promotions for MMBA members - Thank You very much!

10% MEMBER CLUB BUSINESS

AS AN MMBA MEMBER YOU RECEIVED A LIST OF THE 10% MEMBERS WHEN YOU JOINED AND/OR WILL RENEW MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR. IF YOUR SHOP/MANUFACTURER WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN MMBA 10% MEMBER IN ADDITION TO BEING A PROUD SHOP/MANUFACTURER MEMBER OF THE MMBA JUST CALL 616-785-0120 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A REMINDER TO ALL MMBA MEMBERS: ALL THE SHOPS/MANUFACTURERS ON THE LAST PAGE ARE SPECIAL. THEY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS ON THE TRAIL AND IN THE MMBA POINTS SERIES. THEY DESERVE YOUR PATRONAGE!!!!!!

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BECOME A MEMBER

Yes, I want to help convert abandoned railroad corridors into trails. I want to become a member of the Rails-to-Trail conservancy (check dues level):

☐ \$18 Individual

☐ \$25 Family

My organization or business is interested in supporting RTC. Please send me information about the Supporter Program.

To help the Michigan Chapter's work in Michigan even more. I'm enclosing an additional gift of:

☐ \$100

☐ \$50

☐ \$20

☐ \$10

☐ \$other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____

Please make check payable to "Rails-to-Trail Conservancy" and mail to:

RTC of Michigan
913 W. Holmes, Suite 145

Lansing, MI 48910

RTC Phone:

517-393-6022

RTC is a non-profit charitable organization as qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax exempt to the extent permitted by law. See your tax advisor.

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Yakama Rack - Fits mini-van, 2 standard GT racks, 1 GT Lackjaw rack, all drip-rail towers with locks. Like new. Never "stored" on car. Always put in garage after every use. Retail if new \$485. Asking \$300. 517-349-4683 (Lansing area).

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The Statewide Organization
of Michigan Bicyclists

To join the League of Michigan Bicyclist, just fill out this app and send it in!
Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

New Member:

☐ Individual/Family Membership
\$10.00

☐ Organizational/Club
Membership \$30.00

☐ Shop/Business Membership
\$30.00

☐ Life Membership \$200.00

Occupation _____

League of American Bicyclists

Member? ☐ yes ☐ no



North Dakota * Minnesota * Wisconsin * Michigan
Ohio * Pennsylvania * New York

I want to support the North Country Trail Association. Enter my annual membership at the following level:

☐ \$ 25 Individual

☐ \$ 35 Household

☐ \$ 50 Trail-leader

☐ \$100 Pathfinder

☐ \$ 45 Organization

☐ \$500 Corporation

Lifetime Memberships

☐ \$400 Individual

☐ \$600 Couple

Would you like to be a Member-at-large, or a Chapter Member?

☐ Member-at-large

☐ Headwaters(MN)

☐ Chequamegon(WI)

☐ North Country Trail Hikers (Michigan)

☐ SE Wisconsin

☐ Grand Traverse Club

☐ Western Michigan

☐ I would like to further support the work of the NCTA with my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____

Make check payable and mail to:

NCTA • 49 Monroe Center Suite 200B • Grand Rapids MI 49503

Name _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

H-Phone: _____ W-Phone _____

E-mail: _____ Skills to volunteer: _____



Michigan Mountain Biking Association* Annual Meeting Weekend 1997

Sunday February 2

Springfield Oaks

(Davisburg Michigan)

The Blizzard Blaster Fun Ride

9:00 am

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

Call 810-682-5456 for more information

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

-Parts Swap (buy-sell- trade)

-Chapter Booths/DNR Trail Info/National Forest Trail Info/

Race Promoter Info/Bike Shops/ Manufacturer

Representatives/ Displays...etc.

-Food and drink

-prize giveaways

2:00 pm

MMBA 1997 Annual Meeting

-Update from IMBA - Jim Hasenauer

-Guest Speaker from Trek

-Volunteer of the year awards

-MMBA Championship Points Series Awards

-Grand Prize drawing

4:30 Adjournment

*Also for all those interested: there will be an MMBA Statewide Board meeting in the Davisburg area, contact the MMBA for location or your local chapter president.
(616-785-0120)

MMBA Statewide Board Meeting
Saturday February 1

1:00 pm until 4:00
MMBA Statewide Board Meeting
Agenda to be announced

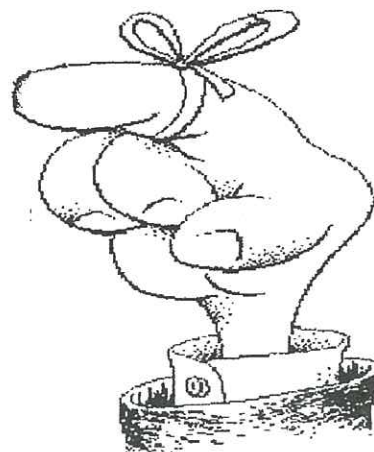
4:30 until 7:00

Dinner and Speaker

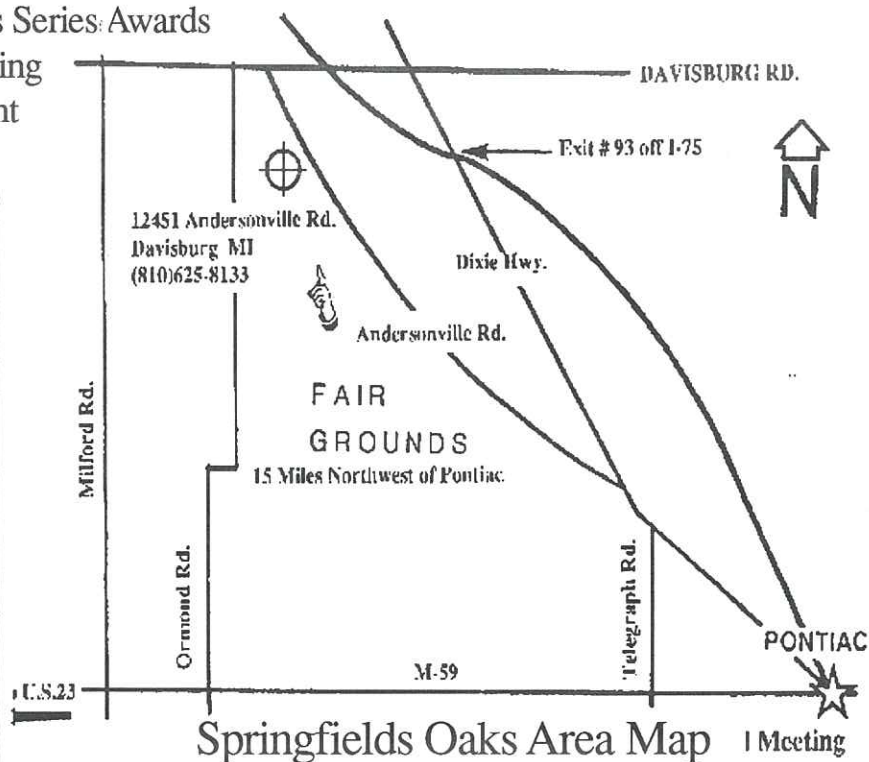
International Mountain Biking Association
Educational Resource Development Leader
Jim Hasenauer

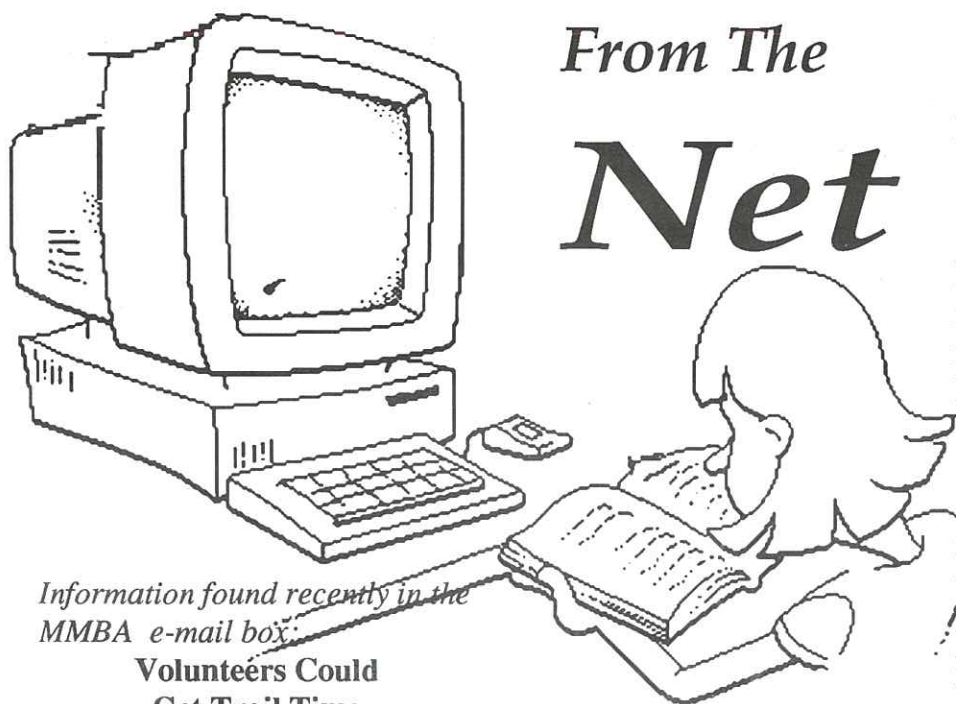
University Communications Professor
Former IMBA Founder and President

**Don't Forget!
Mark Your Calendar!**



1997 Blizzard Blaster Fun Ride!





Information found recently in the MMBA e-mail box:

Volunteers Could Get Trail Time

Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt, recently announced 50 Forest Service fee projects and 17 Bureau of Land Management projects, affecting everything from entrance fees to trailhead parking. The Recreation Fees Demonstration Project directs the four federal land managing agencies to each create up to 100 fee demonstration projects over the next three years.

Trail volunteers were not forgotten by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management as each agency drafted guidelines for the Demonstration Project. American Hiking Society met with the agencies and both agreed that, at the very least, if fees are imposed in areas where volunteers contribute their labor, volunteers should not pay on the days on which they work.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management also welcome working with strong trail groups to encourage

increased volunteerism with free annual fee passes. Since the new fees are part of a three-year demonstration project, the opportunities for hiking clubs are limitless. For instance, a National Forest may allow a club to distribute free annual passes to members who maintain trails for a certain number of days in that forest. The onus, however, will be on the trail groups to approach National Forests or BLM regions with a proposal.

Clubs that put together successful programs that encourage volunteerism and generate community goodwill, will affect a permanent recreation fees bill, which Congress plans to introduce this year.

---A Win in the Budget Battle---

Finally, President Clinton has signed the last bill passed by the 104th Congress -- the Omnibus Parks Bill. This enormous bill creates or improves almost

120 trails, parks, rivers and historical sites in 41 states. The bill included a provision to help purchase Sterling Forest in New York and New Jersey, which affects the Appalachian Trail, and authorized the Selma-to-Montgomery Trail, the newest national historic trail. The interior appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1997 passed with slight gains for trails.

* FS Trail Construction/Reconstruction: \$22 million, \$2 million more than FY '96. Included in this line-item is \$750,000 earmarked for the Florida, Continental Divide, Pacific Crest and Nez Perce National Trails and \$250,000 earmarked for the Ice Age, Appalachian, Lewis & Clark, North Country, and Oregon National Trails.

* NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program: \$7.2 million, up slightly from FY '96.

* NPS-managed National Scenic and National Historic Trails: \$2.2 million, a 3 percent increase over FY '96.

Alaskans Take Control of Trail Committees

Smoke from November's election has not quite cleared, but a Republican-controlled Congress is certain. Senate Republicans increased their majority to 55-45, pushing it toward a more conservative ideology, while the Republican majority in the House of Representatives shrunk, potentially moderating that body.

The impact congressional reshuffling will have on trails programs is uncertain. On the

Senate side, conservative Ted Stevens (R-AK) will succeed outgoing moderate, Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR) as chair of the full Appropriations Committee. This will give the Alaska delegation a virtual monopoly on trail-related issues. Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) chairs the full Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Rep. Don Young (R-AK) chairs its House counterpart. This delegation favors recreation, but also favors anti-environmental provisions, such as permanently opening Alaska's Tongass National Forest to increased logging.

Teaming With Taxes

As the 105th Congress convenes, hikers will once again face the prospect of an outdoor equipment tax. The proposal's chief supporter, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, has announced that it intends to see the tax introduced in March 1997. IAFWA made this announcement despite having neither House nor Senate sponsor. As well as being opposed by many recreation groups, the measure has been derided by key Republicans and the White House.

American Hiking Society has opposed the Teaming with Wildlife excise tax from its inception because its negative effect on hikers far outweighs any incremental benefits to non-game wildlife. AHS views the proposal, which would channel new taxes of up to five percent on outdoor products to state fish

and wildlife agencies, as misdirected. While there are a few exceptions, such as West Virginia, most state fish and wildlife agencies are not inclined or equipped to spend money raised from taxing hiking boots and backpacks on things that hikers need, such as maintaining and building trails.

American Hiking Society hosted a meeting in October 1996 attended by proponents and opponents of the tax. To date, no changes have been made in the proposed legislation to redress concerns raised at that meeting.

To call your Member of Congress:

US Capitol Switchboard:
(202) 224-3121

To write your Senator:
The Honorable

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

To write your Representative:
The Honorable

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

For more information on any topics reported in Capitol Trails Broadcast, contact American Hiking Society's Trail Conservation Director, Mary Margaret Sloan, at AHSINFORM@aol.com, or call 301-565-6704.

Capitol Trails Broadcast is a service provided by American

Hiking Society, a national non-profit organization dedicated to establishing, protecting and maintaining trails in America. Serving as the voice of the American trail user in our nation's capital, American Hiking works to educate the public about the benefits of hiking and trails; to increase the constituency for trails; and to foster research on trails issues.

American Hiking Society
PO Box 20160
Washington, DC 20041-2160
(301) 565-6704
(301) 565-6714 fax



Representation Information

March(April)

April-18 Southeast Chapt. Meeting Detroit	-	315 miles
April-19 Northern Chapt. Meet. Cadillac	-	176 miles
State Board Meeting Lansing	-	136 miles

April/May

April -26 Lansing - Simms Meet	-	315 miles
May-3 North Count. Trail Meet. Cadillac	-	54 miles
May-10 Matton/MI-DNR State Forest	-	203 miles
May-12 Addison Oaks Pontiac	-	340 miles
May-14 Lansing MI-DNR	-	174 miles

May-June

May-30 State Forest Meet Traverse City	-	287 miles
May-31 Lansing Simms Meet	-	174 miles
June-2 Ionia Trail Dedecation	-	93 miles
June-4 TK Lawless Parks Asso. Meet. Cass Co.	-	214 miles

June-July

June-23 -M-DNR State Forest Meeting	-	174 miles
July-8-96 State Forest Meet Traverse City	-	287 miles
July-24-96 Lansing board meet	-	174 miles

August

Aug.-19 /DNR Forest Plan Houghton	-	372 miles
Aug.-20 Rec. Trail Advis. Lansing	-	184 miles
Aug. Race com. meeting Lansing	-	174 miles
Forest Rec. Com. meeting Roscommon	-	312 miles
Aug. -27 BRB Planning Meet. dnb designs	-	23 miles

September

Sept.-16 Lansing/BRP DNR	-	180 miles
Sept.-18 Annual Meet. Planning Lansing	-	170 miles
Sept. 20 Friends of the Forest / Cadillac	-	168 miles
10-4 NFSe/Big M / Wellston	-	270 miles
Oct. 10 Post office Bulk Mail Ed. Seminar	-	34 miles

October

Oct./12/13/ Oct. - Schuss Mt. Retreat	-	296 miles
Oct. 20 Cannonsburg	-	14 miles
Oct. 20 Yankee Springs Trail Maint. Middle	-	86 miles
Nov. 2 CABDA Midwest Chicago	-	424 miles
Nov. 4 Meeting Lansign Rails to Trails	-	170 miles

November

Nov. 6 96 Lansing Promoter Meeting.	-	170 miles
Nov. 19 Owasepee Boy Scout Trail dev.	-	123 miles
Nov. 20 USFS-NCT Cadillac meeting	-	165 miles
Nov. 22 USFS Friends Meeting Cadillac	-	165 miles

Brochure devel. meetings (throughout Nov.)

dnb Designs/Don Lee - Dan Clark/Art	-	170 miles
-------------------------------------	---	-----------

Total miles**6,786 miles YTD**

These miles were logged by the MMBA executive director. Other miles not represented in total, include trips to the post office, copy shop, office supply duties, stopping at bike shops when in the area, etc. which would push the total miles to well over 15,000 miles for the year. (Some mileage to post office was also accumulated by bike when possible - not included in total.)

Mile By Mile...

The Chart on the left represents the commitment of the MMBA to support the interests of the mountain biking public. The meetings and the mileage represents a large amount of time spent developing and representing your concerns to land managers and stewards of our public lands. Other organizations in attendance at a lot of these meetings included the snowmobilers (with a membership of well over 5,000), ORV's/ Motorcycle organizations (with a membership in the thousands), equestrians, hikers, cross-country skiers, hunting and fishing related organizations (representing numbers in the tens of thousands), the lumber industry, Sierra Club, local units of government and many others.

At virtually all of the meetings the MMBA was the only bicycle organization present. Discussions were as wide ranging as one can imagine covering very diverse topics from roads and highways, habitat, timber sales, right on down to forest recreation and trail design, development and management. Obviously they are all tied together and, in a way, they are tied together by those who are present when the various issues are discussed. Out-comes such as the decision on the North Country Trail, expansion of trail networks in our recreation area, state forest and other management areas are directly related to input in the decision making process. That input was developed at MMBA board and chapter meetings and then shared with land managers at the numerous meetings listed.

(mile by mile cont. next pg.)

1996 In Review - Here is a list of just a few things that were accomplished this year with your support of the MMBA!

—Western Chapter of the MMBA opened up several new miles of the trail at the Ionia State Recreation Area near Grand Rapids

—Southwestern Chapter of the MMBA opened up the 7 mile Green Loop at the Fort Custer Recreation Area and began work and development of financial resources for the construction of a new parking lot at the trail-head and also a new well.

—The Potawatomi (Poto) Chapter of the MMBA received a DALMAC Grant and constructed several hundred feet of bridging over a wet area of the 25 mile Poto Trail, in the Pinckney Recreation Area near Ann Arbor.

—The Northeast Chapter of the MMBA also received a DALMAC grant and put in several hundred feet of *Trail-master* at the Pine Haven Trail near Midland to stabilize soils on a neglected trail (rain caused wash-out) section.

—The Pontiac Lake and the Southeast Chapter of the MMBA worked to complete the Highland Recreation Area Trail, which is 16 miles of some of the most twisty

Northern Chapter of the MMBA.

—The MMBA Championship Points Series sponsored by Trek Bicycles ended its most successful season ever with thousands of spectators attending the 17 races from the months of April through October. Michigan has successfully united the racer with land access.

—The 1996 Annual Meeting saw at least 400 interested members and mountain bikers attend the awards ceremony, bike swap and enjoy the insights of frame builder/designer, Keith Bontrager.

—Membership for 1997 is pushing the 1,400 mark. The MMBA's mail list of members, land managers, bike shops, DNR officials, Government and industry contacts stands near the 2,000 level.

—With citizen/MMBA input (see letter next page), off-road trails on state properties in Michigan secured \$20,000 plus for trails in Michigan from ISTEAF funding.

—Kirk Costello, MMBA member, was selected as the 1996 National Trails Day Volunteer of the year by American Hiker and Vibram soles for his National Trails Day activities on the Seven Lakes Trail and Holdridge Lakes Trail in Holly, Michigan near the Pontiac/Detroit area (nationally, one volunteer was selected from each state).

—The U.S. Forest Service handed down a decision leaving 80 miles



Just one of the many achievements by the membership of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association: a new bridge, built and paid for by the Southwest Chapter of the MMBA.

(MMBA riders at Fort Custer Recreation Area)

technical trail to be found anywhere in the country.

—The Poto Chapter of the MMBA began work on 12 miles of new trail at the Brighton State Recreation Area.

—The VASA expansion will be signed this fall after a long and involved period of negotiations. Developmental procedures were worked out by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, State Forest Division and the

(mile by mile cont. from last page..)

Your membership secured a voice at these meetings. Without that commitment mountain bike riders, bicycle shops and the industry the picture in Michigan would be very different. More importantly without continued support the picture could change at any time, the saying is - the world is run by those who show up. With your support the MMBA will be there....hour by hour...mile by mile.

(review continued on pg. 19)

To All Those Concerned:

The North American Vasa Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion to oppose the two Traverse City Bypass routes currently under consideration that dissect the dedicated non-motorized Vasa Pathway located in the Pere Marquette State Forest near Traverse City.

Dedicated in 1990, the Vasa Pathway has become one of the most heavily used trail systems in the state, enjoying year round use by cross-country skiers, mountain bike riders, hikers, runners and nature lovers.

"As a group, we are not opposed to the concept of a Traverse City bypass," says Roger Putman, current board president. "But, we feel that some alternative routes need to be considered. There is room for both the Vasa Pathway and the proposed bypass - we just want the planners to take a look at solutions that have not been considered yet that don't impact the trail and the state forest so dramatically."

Putman added, "We feel that keeping the trail and the surrounding state forest in its natural state will benefit the future land use planning of East Bay and Acme Townships by offering unparalleled recreational opportunities in close proximity to the bypass and the areas surrounding it."

Executive Director Steve Brown expanded on the Board's position. "The current proposed bypass routes are based on local land use guidelines from the early 1980's before the Vasa trail was even created. This particular section of the Pere Marquette State Forest would be destroyed by a highway slicing it in half," he says.

"There is no way to replace the uniqueness of this forest and this trail. The legacy of the Vasa ski races and all the hard work, donations and grant money that went into building the trail would be lost," he adds. Brown went on to observe that if our area continues to grow as it has, the Vasa Pathway and the surrounding state forest lands might become the Central Park of Traverse City fifty years from now.

For more info contact: North American VASA Inc. P.O. Box 500 Acme MI 49610 / 616-938-4400

Lots and Lots of Letters:djek nbmdirtslkjhl

October, 1996
John Haffenden
Western Chapter
Grand Rapids, MI

Dear John:

Sounds like you had a very successful work day on the twentieth. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and you had a good turnout of volunteers.

Would you please identify on a map, the location where you installed the groundmaster and forward to us. Also, any time you need gravel let us know where and when and how much and we will attempt to deliver as close as possible to the work site. We do have some means of getting into remote locations with our 4-wheel drive Mule, which will carry a small payload. We need about a five foot wide path. As always, if you can supply the manpower we can supply our limited equipment and operators.

Thanks to you and your crew for the work. We have had numerous compliments on the trail, and it provides a good recreational experience for lots of riders annually.

Sincerely
Kyle Converse
Management Unit Administrator

October 24, 1996
Mr. Dwain Abramowski
Michigan Mountain Bike Association
Belmont, MI

Dear Mr. Abramowski:

Thank you for your participation on Michigan's National Trails Fund Advisory Board and assisting the Department of Natural Resources in establishing and carrying out distribution of grant funds from the National Recreational Trails Fund program.

I believe the insights, suggestions and guidance you provided on behalf of your user group is an invaluable part of our partnership with all Michigan citizens in the stewardship of our natural resources. We are committed to being a leader in providing first-class trail recreation opportunities in Michigan.

Sincerely,
K. L. Cool

Director
517-373-2329

cc: Mr. Hector Chiunti, MDNR
Mr. Philip Wells, MDNR
Mr. Mark Mandenberg, MDNR

More letters:

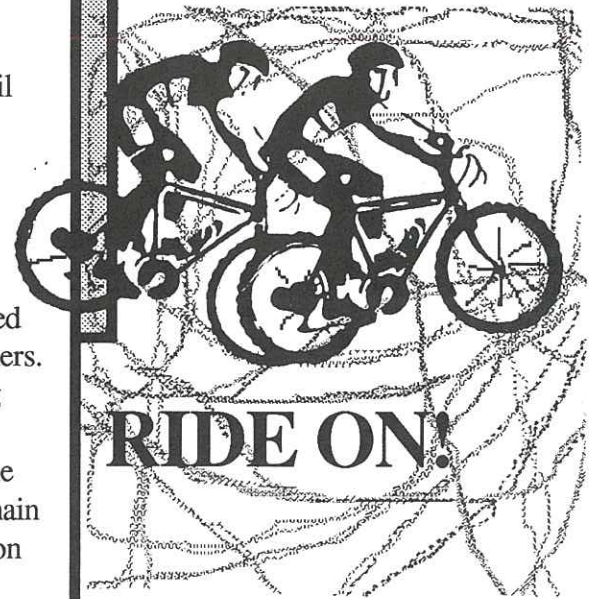
Dear MMBA,

It is very gratifying to bike along the single tracks near the VASA Trail and see the result of our trash clean-up that the MMBA organized. My son and I were on TV 7/4 news as part of the clean-up so we are really pumped!

Thanks, and keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Jim "Woody" Woodburne

ed: Actually Jim, many thanks go to Dennis Bean Larson. He organized the trash clean-up on behalf of MMBA members and all mountain bikers. It was a great success and Dennis was also instrumental in getting authorization to sign a 13 mile addition to the VASA trail which took place this fall. Look for more information on riding it this spring (in the BRB) or contact your Northern Chapter of the MMBA. Just call the main office at 616-785-0120 for the current number after this winters election of new officers.



(continued from pg. 17 - review)

of the North Country Trail open to mountain biking in the Huron/Manistee National Forest. The decision was based (in part), on the fact that the MMBA has been totally involved in the care and maintenance of the trail and is committed to continue involvement in the open sections of the trail

—For only 0.06¢ a day we are able to reach more mountain bikers and celebrate the work of the **MMBA members, park and land managers, the DNR, National Forest Service personnel, legislators, state and local** units of government and others!

—If you own a bike shop, for 0.30¢ a day we are working for your customers keeping an eye on the forests where they enjoy riding the bike they bought from you!

The MMBA Needs You For 1997

****Several thousand feet of bridging and rerouting still needs to be done on many trails throughout**



Where The Heck Are You!

If you know someone who says they didn't get their latest issue of the BRB or other MMBA information, ask them if they filed a change of address with the MMBA. When you move don't forget to take us with you. Mail change of address info to MMBA P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306.

Michigan. Though some strides were made with the help of financial resources and volunteers, what remains to be done will take a new level of commitment from volunteers, bike shops and the bike industry in coordination with the local land managers to make a dent in the needs of the trails throughout Michigan.

****Though the MMBA has nearly 1,400 members, the MMBA financial resources have barely allowed it to scratch the surface of the numbers of mountain bikers that can be reached.**

****In order to meet the needs of the growing numbers of mountain bikers in Michigan, the MMBA must find the resources to run the association as a business. The MMBA must be empowered with the financial resources to do a professional job of representing the mountain biking public - YOU!**

For More Info-Write:

MMBA P.O. Box 29

Belmont MI 49306

Phone/Fax: 616-785-0120

E-mail: Go_MMBA@aol.com

Web Site: <http://www.mmba.org>

Not The Same Old Addison Oaks

MMBA SE Chapter Special Interest Story

By Bob Yankus

After this year's "Spring Classic" at Addison Oaks, a couple of challenges on the course became apparent to me. The course was always the same basic layout and extremely muddy. When going back to any race course year after year, I always look for improvements and changes that will show somebody really cares, while making the ride challenging. With the fall race coming up, I contacted Oakland County Parks to see if they were interested in making some adjustments and was met with a plea for help. Although Oakland County Parks are obviously great organizers with the resources, they're not all mountain bikers. With some direction by those of us who ride a lot had the potential of making a lot of positive impacts on the course design.

My two priorities were to make the spring race (97) as dry as possible and add some new single track for the fall and spring races.

Culverts to allow drainage under the trail and filling depressions with crushed stone and gravel were started late summer. This is expensive and slow work, but the benefits are great.

Creating new high quality trails was a tough puzzle with the limited land and the clay soil. *Double Trouble*, *Up a Creek* and *The Rock* were completed in time for the September race. *Double Trouble* is two parallel single tracks, one with rocks, the other tight turns and logs. Riders chose their best discipline and made up time while racing side by side. *Up a Creek* follows a dry ravine with tight corners, roots and a large flat rock to ride over. Most racers chose to ride the complete section and were rewarded with cheers from the 60-70 people lining the banks whenever a clean ride was made over the rocky surface. The crowd was brutal on the people carrying their bikes. A challenging section, but not dangerous if a mistake is made.

My biggest disappointment of the September race day event, was the congestion in the single-track by beginners. Large differences in ability with higher numbers caused wave leaders to catch back-of-the-pack riders within 1/2 mile. In 97, 2 to 3 minutes will separate the groups.

With the fall race now history, we'll start working on new improvements for the spring race. Special thanks to Dan Stencil, head of Oakland County Parks, for personally walking the new sections, Jim Dunlevy, Race Director, who was willing to make improvements; park employees who are now adding culverts, filling holes, and getting ready for the spring race. I've never worked with a more enthusiastic group! Kudos to all involved: riders, organizers, park employees, everyone! The SE Chapter members who saw a problem and worked to make a difference were Wes & Sharon Watt, Dan Yankus and Chris Weingartz. We build our own!!!

General/MMBA MEMBERSHIP
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Bent Rim Bugle/Editorial
Executive Director Office
P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306

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